

A History of Indiana

From the earliest discovery and exploration by the French down to the mobilization in 1917 for the war against Germany, in two volumes, 1142 pages.

By **LOGAN ESAREY**

*Assistant Professor of Western History
in Indiana University.*

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LOGAN ESAREY
Bloomington, Ind.

such a history for every State in the Union, supplemented by detailed studies of important topics.

By far the best portion of the book is its treatment of those aspects of State history which are most intricate and difficult, and superficially most repelling. The chapters on Economic Development, covering roads, stage lines, flatboat trade, and mailboat service; on Internal Improvements, tracing the policies which culminated in 1836 with Governor Noble's signature of the Mammoth Internal Improvements bill, appropriating one-sixth of all the wealth the State then had and paving the way straight to bankruptcy; on the Public Lands and the frauds and speculations growing therefrom, on the Second Bank of Indiana, and on Religion and Education leave little to be desired.

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS.

Professor Logan Esarey, Ph.D., of Indiana University, where he is Assistant Professor in Western History, is the author of "A History of Indiana"—a work that commends itself to students and to readers generally as one of the best works of the sort that has yet appeared on the subject. Moreover, it is a work for which there is genuine need. We have had histories of Indiana—plenty of them, too—but, unfortunately, they have not been without serious faults. In some cases, they have been written by men whose bias colored facts to suit their prejudices and whose opinions have too often been projected as historical data.

These errors, Professor Esarey's history avoids, and, on that account, to say nothing of its other virtues, it will gain a place for itself, no doubt as one of the best and foremost and most reliable books dealing with the subject.

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW.

The History of Indiana as one of the frontier States is suggestive of the distinctive part which the frontier has played in the warp and woof of American history. An added appreciation of the History of Indiana will give a new appreciation of our nation's development, particularly as the one hundredth year of her history coincides with the great national era.

In his preface, Mr. Esarey points out the difficulties which one now meets in investigating the historical data concerning Indiana, and he states that he has traced his facts to primary sources and has excluded from his book many traditional stories popularly regarded as substantial history, but which have been found to be without historical foundation.

The style of the author is clear and distinct, but somewhat heavy. The emphasis is well placed and the subjects are treated with due proportion. The institutional history is well covered topically and the chapters are subdivided in a way to show the connection with the general subject.

One of the commendable features is the footnotes, and the author has given a brief estimate of the relative value of his authorities which is quite worth while. Another very attractive feature of the book is the collection of fifteen maps illustrating the development of the State to 1852. There is a good summary of the civil institutions of the State. The volume is provided with a good bibliography of twelve pages, although it might to advantage have been made more complete.

All in all, Mr. Esarey has made a distinct contribution to the history of Indiana, and in so doing to the history of the nation.

W. O. LYNCH,

Professor of History in the Indiana State Normal, Terre Haute.

The appearance of a volume covering the History of Indiana to 1850 is timely. This volume should, and doubtless will, receive a generous welcome. Whatever may be said of others states, the History of Indiana has been rather sadly neglected. Some excellent work has been done previously on the period before 1816, but Dr. Esarey has produced the first work of historical value on the period from 1816 to 1850. For several years he has been collecting the sources of Indiana History. His sacrifices have been great, but so have been his successes. Indeed, his achievements in this direction have not been approached by those of any one else in the field of Indiana History. It would be difficult to express too high an appreciation of the labors that have preceded and accompanied the writing of the volume under review.

WILLIAM W. SWEET,

Professor of History in DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.

Professor Esarey's *History of Indiana* is by far the best State history of which I have any knowledge. It was not written for revenue only as are so many state and county histories, and it represents many years of research and scientific investigation. I have used it most successfully as a text in my classes as well as a book of reference and am thoroughly familiar with every page. It is certainly a book which every citizen of Indiana ought to be proud to possess; in fact, there is no other book which can fill its place in the library of the Indiana citizen.

JONATHAN RIGDON,

*President Central Normal College, Danville,
Indiana.*

There is certainly no one better prepared than Dr. Logan Esarey to write the History of Indiana. When this book by him was promised his friends expected much, but the book has surpassed our expectations. It is not only readable but interesting and, from the standpoint of scholarship, I have every reason to believe that it is in every way dependable. In short, it is far and away the best book on Indiana history that has yet appeared.

DR. HORACE ELLIS.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Even though I may be biassed in my judgment of things made in Indiana, I am sure the calm reflection of any man will quickly classify Esarey's *History of Indiana* as among those literary contributions of far-reaching importance. Though it is, what it pretends to be, a history of Indiana it is vastly more than that—it is a highly reliable and intensely interesting chapter in the history of the Republic. He mirrors the early day in this great middle west clearly; he delineates the sturdy characters accurately; he re-animates with wonderful vigor public assemblages—whether political, social or religious. This story leaves no unpleasant memories, even though it may shatter past ideals of proper political and religious behavior among our ancestors. One reads this work—Hoosier born or not—as he reads Parkman, because the tale fascinates.

CHARITY DYE.

In Some Torch Bearers in Indiana.

This book is destined to exert a powerful influence upon Indiana citizens in enabling them to know their state in its origin and development.

Since John Dillon began to write the first History of Indiana, there has been no change in historic methods except in degree, made possible by access to historic archives and other historic material. John Dillon went through the same patient examination of documents and material, the same attempts to sift out accepted fact from mere conjecture, as has Logan Esarery, and withal to put into his work a like devotion and intelligence that has made it an enduring contribution to Indiana letters.

This book is the result of ten years of ceaseless investigation, but it is far more than that—it grew out of the inborn taste and aptitude of the writer for historic study.

IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS.

It is perhaps no exaggeration to say that this is the most scholarly and satisfactory work on the History of Indiana that has thus far been written. Not only is it more complete than any previous work attempting to cover the same period, but it is compiled almost entirely from original sources—a task of no mean proportions in a State where, as the author indicates in his preface, “there is no considerable collection of historical material to draw upon.”

THE NATION.

Mr. Esarey's volume is one of the best examples of State history as it ought to be written. The task of the historian in Indiana is even more difficult than in most States, from the fact that there is no considerable collection of historical materials to draw upon. The documentary sources of many commonwealths have been published, but since a short-sighted Legislature half a century ago prevented John B. Dillon from organizing them and from giving Indiana a State library to be proud of, Indiana has been consistently remiss in its attention to such matters. The most important sources, the Indiana State Publications, have not been issued in anything approaching chronological order, and have not been indexed. The Indiana Legislative Records are like those of half the other States: the dates on the back inaccurate, the pagination confused, and the indexes imperfect. As for secondary authorities, J. P. Dunn's excellent volume in the American Commonwealth series is frankly sketchy on the political and military side, and as a social and economic history is pre-occupied with the early struggle over slavery and the later fight against pro-slavery sentiment; John Dillon's scholarly work was—again through legislative narrowness—brought down only to 1816, and the work of Goodrich and others is negligible. But Mr. Esarey, whose previous studies on State Banking and Internal Improvements in Indiana have familiarized him with two difficult aspects of its history, has searched every possible source of information, made the closest study of newspapers and manuscripts, and painstakingly verified even statements hitherto unquestioningly accepted. His bibliography contains over three hundred items. The result is a record, the definitiveness of which is unlikely to be questioned. It is to be hoped that we may some day realize

JAMES A. WOODBURN,

Professor of History in Indiana University.

The completion of Dr. Logan Esarey's *History of Indiana* is a literary event of importance to the state. The two large volumes represent a painstaking labor of many years. It has been a labor of devotion to the honor of Indiana. The work reveals the history of the state from the earliest territorial times down to the entrance of America and of Indiana into the great world war. It is a record which will be a source of pride to all Hoosiers everywhere and it tells a story of progress and achievements of which all citizens of the state will be pleased to be informed. These volumes stand today unrivaled as a complete history of Indiana, and they are likely to remain so for many years to come. Such a work on the life of one of our American commonwealths may not be expected to appear more than once in a half a century. Dr. Esarey has brought to these volumes the training of the historical scholar, the patience of the investigator, the discerning criticism in research which enables him to weigh evidence, to sift knowledge, to appreciate values, to estimate proportions, and he has shown the historical sense that leads him to visualize the past and to recognise men and movements and events for what they actually were. He tells not of myth or tradition or imaginative story. But here is a true, full, reliable history of Indiana, within easy reach and reading of the layman who wishes to know the results of historical research. In addition to his historical accuracy, Dr. Esarey tells the story of Indiana with a literary style that will engage the attention and interest of the reader.

Dr. Esarey's ancestors came to Indiana in the

EVANSVILLE COURIER.

The book will at once step into the position of the leading history of the Hoosier State. It will take the first importance, if it does not make all preceding ones obsolete.

The abundance of Dr. Esarey's information is apparent on every page, the accuracy, except in some careless proofreading in the spelling of names, is undoubted. To the many disputed facts of Indiana History he has given a patience and industry that are amazing. He combines the diligence of the investigator with the imagination of the historian. The result is that the book while crowded with facts is not a mere compilation but a genuine history.

Professor Esarey's history is invaluable to the student and it will be eagerly sought by the general reader. Few states outside the original thirteen have had a history so interesting. Its beginnings were laid in romantic adventure and its development was through stirring times. On Indiana soil George Rogers Clark carried out one of the most brilliant exploits of the Revolution. Its borders were touched by the war of 1812 and Hoosier soldiers participated in battles under Taylor and Scott in Mexico. Conflicts with the Indians were frequent.

While Professor Esarey gives due attention to wars and politics and governments, he fully describes the life of the people, their habits, customs and social institutions. The book is admirable throughout. It is highly creditable to the author, the university and the State.

THE AMERICAN REVIEW OF REVIEWS.

The admission of Indiana as a State occurred in 1816, a hundred years ago. The event has been celebrated by much centennial pageantry throughout Indiana, and also by valuable historical publications. One of the most notable and permanent results of the new study of Indiana's history is a work by Dr. Logan Esarey of the historical faculty of Indiana University. Professor Esarey has given us not only a delightfully readable narrative in two substantial volume, but he has been at great pains to verify his information from primary sources. His work is both a timely service rendered to the state and a most excellent general contribution to the literature of our national history.

CATHOLIC HISTORICAL REVIEW.

From the first page of the book to the last, the interest of the reader is sustained. The opening chapter, dealing with the activities of the French in Indiana, presents many revelations to the student of history. In his researches on this early period Dr. Esarey depends to a large extent upon facts drawn from the Jesuit Relations, and he has interpreted and marshalled his data in a convincing and scholarly manner.

The work bears the stamp of true scholarship. The scope of the book, embracing as it does the political, social and economic developments in the State, forbade a larger space to religious and educational history. The author's method of treatment is topical, and hence this book ought to form a convenient reference work for the student of American History.

earliest pioneer days. He himself has spent his whole life here. He knows the state from one end to the other, past and present. He is an honor to his native soil, and he has placed the people of Indiana under deep and lasting obligations to him for the services he has rendered to their history. Not a public library in the state should omit the purchase of these volumes for its shelves.

JUDGE DANIEL WAIT HOWE.

Before the appearance of these sumptuous volumes of eleven hundred ninety pages, the author had become favorably known as a careful and patient investigator of Indiana history by his papers published in the Indiana Historical Society publications, one entitled *Internal Improvements in Early Indiana*, the other entitled *State Banking in Early Indiana*. By this more ambitious historical venture he will become more widely and favorably known.

The subject chosen by Mr. Esarey presents an inviting theme for the historian, one full of romantic interest, of thrilling adventure, of heroic achievements, of hard struggles with nature and still harder with savage foes, and of marvelous developments.

Mr. Esarey has cultivated a field only partially developed by prior historians. In the portion of his volume which tells the story of the State from 1816-1851, his care and industry and his merits as an historian are conspicuous. In his preparation of it he has rendered a great service to the State and his work will be highly appreciated by all who are interested in preserving its history.

JOHN W. CRAVENS,
Registrar of Indiana University.

It is by far the most scholarly history yet written concerning the Hoosier State. Dr. Esarey has brushed aside the numerous stories that have been regarded in many quarters as historical facts, and has written only those things for which the true investigator can vouch.

There is not a single uninteresting page in the book. Dr. Esarey has a genius for sifting the wheat from the chaff and he has a literary style that is pleasing and convincing. His first chapter is naturally devoted to the French in Indiana, and this is followed by an interesting chapter on the English period. He deals intelligently with the Northwest Territory and gives an excellent account of the Territory of Indiana. In regular order he gives a faithful historical record of Indiana as a State.

Dr. Esarey's volume is a distinct addition to the History of the State, and it is fortunate that the work was in the hands of a real investigator.

OSCAR H. WILLIAMS,
Inspector of High Schools of Indiana.

I regard Dr. Esarey's *History of Indiana* a distinctive contribution to the literature of Indiana history. It contains the type of material which our young people will find most informing and inspiring. It is written in a style which is dignified as well as interesting. I should be glad to see this work in every public library as well as in the school libraries throughout this State. This book will undoubtedly go down as a classic of its kind.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW.

The first nine chapters of the book cover the period prior to statehood, and form an indispensable introduction to the history of the state proper. Chapters X-XXI are more or less local in their nature, and, as Mr. Esarey no doubt intended, they contain in reality the history of the state. Here the writer's ability to make a substantial contribution to the historical knowledge of the state and of the Mississippi valley has had ample play. He has used to advantage printed documents and newspapers; and from the latter has been able to fill in gaps open too long in western history. Heretofore our knowledge of internal improvements, for example, has been confined largely to legislative enactments and trustee reports, and to financial balance sheets. By the use of newspapers Mr. Esarey has gone back of formal legal action to the unorganized opinions of the people, where he has been able to examine and to describe the motives that prompted their undertakings. Thus in many respects the book is a "History of the People of Indiana," rather than a history of the State itself. To say the least the investigations, on which a part of it rests have been made from the view point of the people as well as the viewpoint of legislative deliberations and executive actions.

Whatever faults the volume may contain—and after all they are minor and in no way detract materially from its value—Mr. Esarey's work in this connection is a distinct contribution not only to the history of the State of Indiana, but also to the history of the Mississippi valley. Its preparation is merely another indication that western historians have gone earnestly to the task of doing scholarly work in local fields.

He found that the State collection of historical documents is not large, that many of the State reports and publications are wholly unreliable, and that others are not indexed nor even properly bound. It is gratifying to know however, that the author, in this instance, traced his facts to primary sources and excluded from his text the stupid repetition of erroneous statement that is so often encountered in the histories of Indiana, both early and recent, that have heretofore been available.

As one of the best discussions of the subject we have ever read, we especially recommend the chapter entitled, "Pioneers and Their Social Life." This is a plain, dignified, matter-of-fact account of early life and conditions in Indiana, free from speculation and theory, and, on that account, doubly valuable. However, as much could be said of other chapters of the work. It is, in short, admirable from beginning to end.